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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Gregg Food Allergens Labeling Bill Ready for Senate Floor**

**Washington, DC** - Today the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions approved a measure supported by Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) that will provide allergen information to the 7 million children and adults who suffer from food allergies. The bipartisan measure approved today was the product of months of negotiations and is now ready for action on the Senate floor.

“The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act will provide reliable, accurate, and clear allergen information to the 7 million children and adults with food allergies who face serious, even potentially deadly, risks because of ingredients with allergic potential. Simply stated, this bill has the potential to save the lives of children,” said Gregg.

“The bill requires those who suffer from food allergies to be alerted to the presence of the eight most common allergens in foods, which account for 90 percent of food allergies. The plain language labeling required by this bill will allow consumers to have greater confidence in the labeling of foods they purchase,” said Gregg.

S. 741, a bill that combines the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003 and Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2003 establishes plain language labeling of allergenic substances in food:

Requires manufacturers to label the presence of the major eight allergens (i.e., milk, eggs, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, fish, and shellfish) in foods. These eight foods account for 90% of food allergies.

Permits manufacturers to choose between two labeling paradigms. Food products must be labeled under either of the paradigms by January 1, 2006.

Requires the Secretary to publish national data on the prevalence of food allergies and the incidence of deaths and injuries.

To assist those with celiac disease to avoid foods containing glutens, the bill requires the Secretary to define “gluten free” as a voluntary claim for food products.

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